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is no doubt better for the average student during his first year in college, since his actions may be more carefully observed by the members of the faculty.

To offset the tendency of many young students who are away from home for the first time, to be led astray by the freedom and glamor of college life, some American colleges and universities have adopted the Freshman Adviser system. With this scheme the freshmen are divided into groups and each group assigned to some member of the faculty, preferably an instructor of experience, who acts as a counsellor and adviser to the students in his charge. If the paternal interest be wisely exercised many students may be started right in college life and succeed where otherwise they would fail, and the system becomes a great help to students and faculty. There is often a tendency, however, in the smaller institutions, for the advisers to pamper the students and make them as dependent as they would be in a preparatory school. The writer would, therefore, recommend this system, in a properly restricted form, as an excellent addition to the administration of a college or university in which the freedom of a lecture system permits the ignorant and immature student, away from guardianship for the first time, to develop bad habits which lead to undesirable excesses and a careless attitude towards his academic duties.

E. S. MOORE

#### THE KAHN FOUNDATION

"THE Kahn Foundation for the Foreign Travel of American Teachers" has issued Vol. I., Nos. 1 and 2, of its "Reports." The benefaction is unique enough to be interesting, and broad enough to invite debate, if not criticism. The deed of gift, dated January 6, 1911, was executed by Mr. Albert Kahn, of Paris, who had already founded *bourses de voyage* in France, Germany, Japan and England, and who contemplated similar action in Russia, China "and elsewhere." The trustees are Mr. Edward D. Adams, of New York City, or a successor to be nominated by the founder or by his personal representatives;

the President of Columbia University; the President of the American Museum of Natural History; the President of Harvard University; the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; or their respective successors. The purpose, which seems to be somewhat indefinite, is stated as follows:

For each year . . . the trustees shall in their discretion select two or more American teachers, scholars or investigators . . . preferably from the professors of such American colleges or universities as the trustees may from time to time designate . . . who will enter into and appreciate the spirit of the foundation and look upon their travels as preparation for the performance of high duties in the instruction and education of the youth of their country, and not as affording a mere vacation or pleasure trip. . . . The founder suggests that the itinerary of such travelers shall be regulated by the trustees in their discretion and shall, if deemed practicable, involve an absence from America of at least one year and include the various countries of Europe and Egypt, India, China, Japan, Ceylon and Java. The founder further suggests that each recipient of a "bourse de voyage" shall agree to furnish to the trustees a report containing the impressions and results of his travels, which report shall not exceed fifty printed pages. The reports of these travelers may be published by the trustees . . . or by the founder, in Paris, at his own expense.

The benefaction amounts at present to \$3,000, and four fellows have been appointed.

In 1911-12, the beneficiaries were Dr. Francis Daniels, professor of Romance languages in Wabash College, and Dr. J. H. T. McPherson, professor of history and political science in the University of Georgia; for 1912-13 they are Dr. William E. Kellicott, professor of biology in Goucher College, and Dr. Ivan M. Linforth, assistant professor of Greek in the University of California. The "Reports" before us are those of Drs. Daniels and McPherson. Dr. Daniels carried out the letter of the deed, going *via* Great Britain, Europe and Egypt to the Orient, visiting Ceylon, India, the Malay Peninsula, Hong Kong, China and Japan, returning thence to San Francisco. Dr. McPherson confined himself to Europe, with the purpose of acquaint-

ing himself with the methods and *status* of instruction in his own field, and of informing himself on "the progress of public opinion in regard to international arbitration." The report of Dr. Daniels is a most interesting series of "reactions" to the endless succession of scenes and people that passed before him. It is notable for its tart remarks on the Germans, for its complimentary references to the English, and for its conclusions, which run thus:

Three facts particularly struck me in my journey through the Orient. The first is the political and industrial might of Great Britain. . . . The second fact is that the Asiatics are more highly civilized than one dreams of before making the journey. . . . The third fact is the supremacy of American influence in China and Japan.

Dr. McPherson devotes more attention to educational affairs, but, like Dr. Daniels, has some hard words for the Germans. He found Paris the most profitable place he visited, and he says:

If I shall ever be so fortunate as to have a year to devote to historical study abroad, I shall prefer Paris to either Berlin or Oxford.

More to the point, perhaps, is his final question.

And now it is only fair to face the question, what assurance can I give the trustees that as a consequence of my year abroad the purposes of the trust and of the founder are to be promoted?

He interprets these purposes as two—"to promote the cause of civilization by rendering the beneficiaries better qualified for . . . their high duties . . . and to further international comity by helping to dispel provincial prejudice and ignorance." In other words, he infers that research is no principal object of the Kahn Foundation. In this he is probably right. For the arc of travel contemplated by the founder would appear to place the residence necessary for investigation out of the question. On the other hand, American college professors, as a class, are so accustomed to European travel in any case, that there would not seem to be much need for fresh stimulus in this direction. It might be suggested, therefore, that, if the foundation is to

fill a distinct niche, the objective should be to enable American teachers to acquaint themselves with the Orient. The undoubted influence of the United States upon Japan in the past, and her growing influence in China today, to say nothing of the Philippine situation, might well serve to indicate to the trustees this more definite idea of the main purpose of the benefaction. As matters stand, the aim is too nondescript to induce confidence.

R. M. W.

#### THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

THE sixth conference of the National Conference Committee on Standards of Colleges and Secondary Schools was held at the rooms of the Carnegie Foundation, 576 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y., on February 19, 1913. The following delegates were present, representing the organizations indicated:

Headmaster Wilson Farrand, Newark Academy, representing the College Entrance Examination Board,—*Vice-president*.

Professor Frank W. Nicolson, Wesleyan University, representing the New England College Entrance Certificate Board.

Dean Herman V. Ames, University of Pennsylvania, representing the Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Middle States and Maryland.

Principal Frederick L. Bliss, Detroit University School, representing the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Dean Frederick C. Ferry, Williams College, representing the New England Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools,—*Secretary-treasurer*.

Secretary Clyde Furst, as substitute for President Henry S. Pritchett, representing the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Dr. Kendrick C. Babcock, specialist in higher education in the National Bureau of Education, as substitute for Hon. Philander P. Claxton, the United States Commissioner of Education.